DC #13

DIRECT CURRENTS

BOOKS SHIPPING IN FEBRUARY*

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GILGAMESH II
4-issue Prestige Format mini-series

HERO HOTLINE
6-issue mini-series

JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE
ongoing monthly series

THE PHANTOM
ongoing monthly series

THE PRIVATE FILES OF THE SHADOW
hardcover book

PLUS . . .

An interview with Kurt Schaffenberger

Cover Of The Month
GILGAMESH II #1

THE LEAGUE GOES CONTINENTAL IN *JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE*

I thought you were having all the fun and excitement you could possibly have in the pages of JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL, huh?

Well, you ain't seen *nothing* yet, because here comes **JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE.**

The action begins as a dead man is found at the door of JLE. The heroes of the new team then begin their career with an investigation that has them tracking down a man who most people view as a hero himself.

It's the kind of adventure you've come to expect from the heroes of the JUSTICE LEAGUE . . . only now you'll be able to get twice the thrills and twice the fun each and every month as JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE joins their comrades in the JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL.

And it's quite an impressive and powerful line-up of heroes who are making Europe safe for everyone: Animal Man, Captain Atom, Elongated Man, Flash, Metamorpho, Power Girl, Rocket Red, and Wonder Woman. How's that for power and versatility?

JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE is written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, the same team that brings you the monthly adventures of the JLI. Joining them on the artist end are Bart Sears and Joe Rubinstein.

Now you can have the JUSTICE LEAGUE times two every month, so have your passport ready and come see what JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE is all about.

We promise you won't be disappointed.

THE PHANTOM RETURNS

The Ghost Who Walks returns. After the success of last year's four-issue **THE PHANTOM** mini-series, the legendary protector of the jungle is back in his own ongoing monthly series.

As we pick up the adventures of the Ghost Who Walks—who is believed to be immortal by those who fear and respect his authority and power—he is on the trail of a gang of gun runners looking to increase business by instigating a civil war that will tear a country apart. Can The Phantom stop them before war breaks out and a nation is destroyed . . . or will the hero of the

downtrodden masses finally reach the end of his 400-year reign as the Ghost Who Walks?

Only time, and the story beginning in THE PHANTOM #1, will tell the tale.

THE PHANTOM, an ongoing monthly series in DC Comics' New Format, is written by Mark Verheiden and features art by Luke McDonnell.

The Ghost Who Walks is back, making the jungle, and the world, a safer place to live for everyone.

Unless, of course, you cross THE PHANTOM.

THE LEGEND LIVES ANEW . . . IN *GILGAMESH II*

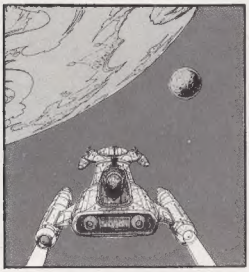
An alien child arrives on Earth, alone, to grow up to become the most powerful being on the face of the planet . . . all the time believing he was unique.

And then he discovers he's not alone after all.

Thus begins the story of **GILGAMESH II,** a modern retelling of one of the oldest and greatest stories of the heroic tradition, giving birth to a truly modern super-hero.

GILGAMESH II, a four-book mini-series in the lush Prestige Format, is written and drawn by Jim Starlin, featuring full-process color by Steve Oliff, and is labelled "Suggested for Mature Readers."

GILGAMESH II . . . a legend is born and we see his growth in a story that will live as long as the world needs a hero.



Paul Kupperberg, Writer
Peggy May, Editor

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Printed in Canada

DIAL H...FOR *HERO HOTLINE*

When things are at their grimmest, when it seems there's no hope and none of the big name super-star super-heroes are around to help you, who you gonna call?

Why, just dial 555-HERO and you'll be in touch with Hero Hotline.

They're the newest team of super-stars in the firmament of the DC Universe, and a finer bunch of good guys you couldn't hope to meet. Hotshot . . . Private Eyes . . . Mister Muscle . . . Diamondette . . . Microwavabelle . . . these are just a few of the members of the most unusual gang of heroes in town, and they're always there when you need them.

Who could ask for anything more?

HERO HOTLINE is a unique blend of drama, humor, and heroics . . . but what else would you expect from the imaginations of writer Bob Rozakis and penciller Stephen DeStefano, the team that brought you 'MAZING MAN? Joining Rozakis and DeStefano is inker Kurt Schaffenberger. HERO HOTLINE is a six-issue mini-series in DC's New Format.

So, when you need help that no one else can provide, you have the number of HERO HOTLINE handy.

Operators are standing by.

THE SHADOW HARDCOVER REVEALS THE EVIL MEN DO

Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?

The Shadow knows . . . and now the secret is out for all to know as DC Comics re-presents five classic tales of **THE PRIVATE FILES OF THE SHADOW** in a deluxe hardcover edition, specially recolored for the full-process reproduction of this volume.

The stories reprinted in THE PRIVATE FILES OF THE SHADOW were originally published in DC's first run of the mysterious crimefighter's adventures back in 1973 and 1974, written by Denny O'Neil and featuring art by Mike Kaluta.

In addition to the reprinting of the stories from THE SHADOW #1–#4 and #6, THE PRIVATE FILES OF THE SHADOW also features an all-new 15-page SHADOW story written and drawn by Mike Kaluta and presented in striking and moody black-and-white. Also included is an insightful essay on The Shadow by Denny O'Neil, so even if these five stories are already a part of your collection, THE PRIVATE FILES OF THE SHADOW has something new you won't want to miss.

THE PRIVATE FILES OF THE SHADOW is a 128-page deluxe volume, recolored by Lovern Kindzierski and featuring an all-new cover by Kaluta.

Beware the vengeance of The Shadow . . . and don't miss some of the most incredible adventures of his illustrious career, to be found only in THE PRIVATE FILES OF THE SHADOW.

BOOKS SHIPPING FEBRUARY 7*

ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™ #4
Facing defeat in the underground lair of Imgig Zu, the only hope for the heroes lies in the far-off reaches of the moon. Written by Michael Fleisher, with art and cover by Jan Duursema. *(New Format)* $1.50

CAPTAIN ATOM #27
What is the truth behind Captain Atom's 1968 court-martial? Blue Beetle, Mister Miracle, and Booster Gold join the Captain in his search in this second of a special three-part story. Written by Cary Bates, with art and cover by Pat Broderick and Bob Smith. $1.00

COPS™ #10
Turnabout is fair play, but the members of COPS have to wonder when Dr. Badvibes turns around to become Dr. *Good*vibes and makes his inventions available to the good guys and helps to foil the plans of Big Boss. Written by Doug Moench, with art and cover by Pat Broderick and Pablo Marcos. $1.00

DETECTIVE COMICS #598
Part 1 of 3, leading up to the spectacular 50th Anniversary issue of DETECTIVE COMICS as the Darknight Detective goes up against one of the most brutal killers of all time . . . a killer who returns from the grave again and again. A special 80-page issue, written by Sam Hamm (screenwriter of the upcoming Batman movie), with art by Denys Cowan and Dick Giordano. Plus, a gallery of Batman art and essays by artists and writers from inside and outside comics. $2.95

DOCTOR FATE #5
Doctor Fate and company travel to Europe in pursuit of Andrew Bennett . . . and find themselves besieged by vampires. Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Shawn McManus and Mark McKenna. Cover by McManus. *(New Format)* $1.25

FLASH CLOISONNÉ PIN
It may not make you as *fast* as Flash, but wearing the new red, white, and yellow Flash Cloisonné Pin will identify you as a dedicated follower of the Fastest Man Alive . . . well, as close as you can follow a guy who runs as fast as *he* can. $4.95

THE NEW GODS #2
The cosmic war and the forces of the Anti-Life have been defeated so far, but there are dead yet to be buried, cities to be rebuilt, and Orion is charged to deliver one casualty of the war home . . . to his enemies. Written by Jim Starlin, with art by Paris Cullins and Bob Lewis. Cover by Cullins and P. Craig Russell. *(New Format)* $1.50

THE NEW GUARDIANS #8
With Tom Kalmaku's wife as the pawn in this most dangerous game, the Guardians confront their arch-enemy in a deadly endgame. Is there a traitor in their midst? Written by Cary Bates, with art and cover by Joe Staton and Mark Farmer. *(New Format)* $1.25

THE PHANTOM #1
The Phantom is back, in an all-new ongoing monthly series. A civil war is brewing and the Ghost Who Walks goes after the gun runners who threaten to ignite it. Written by Mark Verheiden, with art and cover by Luke McDonnell. *(New Format)* $1.50

THE QUESTION #26
The Question finds himself seeking answers to the very different questions asked by a long-time foe of The Batman . . . The Riddler. Written by Denny O'Neil, with art by Bill Wray and Malcolm Jones III. Cover by Wray. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.)* $1.75

THE SPECTRE #25
The entire world is in danger of destruction as the ghost in the machine begs to pull the rest of the world, and The Spectre, in with him. Part 2 of 6. Written by Doug Moench, with art by Tom Artis. *(New Format)* $1.50

SUICIDE SQUAD #25
The Squad will lose a member on a desperate mission . . . but Amanda Waller is too busy defending herself before the U.S. Congress to be much help to her charges. Written by John Ostrander and Kim Yale, with art by guest penciller Grant Miehm and Karl Kesel. Cover by Luke McDonnell and Kesel. $1.00

SUICIDE SQUAD #25

THE WANDERERS #12
Aviax is the most mysterious member of the Wanderers . . . but his secrets are revealed here at last. Written by Doug Moench, with art by Dave Hoover and Robert Campanella. Cover by Steve Lightle. *(New Format)* $1.25

THE WANDERERS #12

WASTELAND #17
It's three times the terror with yet another trio of twisted tales, brought to you by writers John Ostrander and Del Close, and art by Donald Simpson, Michael Davis, and Bill Wray. Cover by Rick Magyar. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format)* $2.00

BOOKS SHIPPING FEBRUARY 14*

CHECKMATE #14
Black Thorn asks for the help of one of the Knights of Checkmate on a very personal mission in a trio of tales, all written by Paul Kupperberg and featuring art by guest artists Eduardo Barreto, Paris Cullins, and Tod Smith. Cover by Art Thibert. *(New Format)* $1.50

DOC SAVAGE #7
Doc and his team move their operation back to New York's Empire State Building, making it easier for a strangely youthful Patricia Savage to find Doc. Part 1 of "The Mind Molder" saga. Written by new regular writer Mike W. Barr, with art by Rod Whigham and Scott Hanna. Cover

FIRESTORM, THE NUCLEAR MAN #84
It never rains but it pours . . . at least that's how Ronnie and Mikhail feel as they're stranded in Moscow, stalked by

Svarozhich . . . and unable to summon Firestorm to help them out of this mess. Written by John Ostrander, with art by Tom Grindberg and Sam De La Rosa. Cover by Grindberg. $1.00

FLASH #25
Is Flash dead or alive? That's the question Tina, Jerry McGee, and Mason Trollbridge have to answer as they follow Flash's seemingly endless trail across America. Written by William Messner-Loebs, with art and cover by Greg LaRocque and Larry Mahlstedt. $1.00

THE HUNTRESS #2
The Huntress tracks her family's killers, digging deeper into the tense balance of power of the criminal underworld . . . and getting deeper into her transformation into the woman who stalks the animals that prey on the innocent. Written by Joey Cavalieri, with art and cover by Joe Staton and Bruce Patterson. $1.00

HAYWIRE #8
Alex doesn't have time to mourn for Marlene as he's attacked at her funeral, forcing Haywire to appear and Alex to face some deep revelations. Written by Michael Fleisher, with art by Vince Giarrano and Jose Marzan. Cover by Giarrano and Kyle Baker. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

MANHUNTER #12
It's Manhunter and a select group of allies facing a battle 'bot left behind in Australia after the Invasion. Written by John Ostrander and Kim Yale, with art by Doug Rice and Pablo Marcos. Plus, a back-up story showing a slightly different look at Manhunter, written by Ostrander and Yale, with art by Sam Kieth. Cover by Rice. $1.00

THE PRIVATE FILES OF THE SHADOW Hardcover
Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows . . . and now you'll know, too, in a deluxe hardcover reprint of the five acclaimed Shadow stories by Denny O'Neil and Mike Kaluta from the original 1973–1974 run of The Shadow. Plus, a new introduction by O'Neil and a new cover and 15-page Shadow story by Kaluta. $19.95

V FOR VENDETTA #10
(of a 10-issue maxi-series)
The mystery of V revealed. One of the most talked about series of the year reaches its stunning conclusion . . . and the revelations are not to be believed. Written by Alan Moore, with full process art and painted cover by David Lloyd. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.)* $2.00

WONDER WOMAN #29
A tribe of modern-day Amazons is alive and well and living in Egypt . . . and Diana discovers that they're not very nice. The Cheetah guest-stars. Written by George Pérez, with art by Chris Marrinan and Will Blyberg. Cover by Pérez. $1.00

YOUNG ALL-STARS #24
Baron Blitzkrieg has kidnapped America's atomic scientists. His objective: to have the Nazis build the world's first A-bomb. Part 4 of the 5-part "Atom and Evil" story. Written by Roy and Dann Thomas, with art by Ron Harris and Bob Downs. Cover by Harris. *(New Format)* $1.50

BOOKS SHIPPING FEBRUARY 21*

THE BATMAN #432
Still grieving over Jason's death, the Batman becomes involved in the case of a missing child—a case he refuses to abandon, though it threatens his very sanity. Written by Jim Owsley, with art by Jim Aparo and Mike DeCarlo. $.75

CATWOMAN #3
(of a 4-issue mini-series)
Selina Kyle begins her career as The Catwoman, seeking out a mortal enemy who holds her sister hostage, demanding to trade a life for a life. Written by Mindy Newell, with art and cover by J.J. Birch and Michael Bair. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

CATWOMAN #3

DRAGONLANCE™ #7
Kalthanan, Myrella, and Gnatch are lost in the caves under Neraka . . . but they're not alone: something is following them. Something *big*. Written by Dan Mishkin, with art by Paris Cullins, Ron Randall, and R. Elliott. Cover by Randall. *(New Format)* $1.50

GILGAMESH II #1
(of a 4-book mini-series)
An alien child arrives on Earth, growing up to become the most powerful being on the planet, all the while believing he was the only one of his kind in the world. But then he learns that he's not alone. . . . Written and drawn by Jim Starlin. Cover by Starlin. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. Prestige Format.)* $3.95

GREEN ARROW #17
A female stripper is found viciously murdered; the chief suspect in the slaying is the mysterious man known only as The Horseman, and Green Arrow is on his trail. Written by Mike Grell, with art by Dan Jurgens and Dick Giordano. Cover by Jurgens and Giordano. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.25

HELLBLAZER #18
At last, John Constantine is once more a man with a mission, setting out on a search of his own for Mercury. Written by Jamie Delano, with art by Richard Piers Rayner and Mark Buckingham. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.25

HERO HOTLINE #1
(of a 6-issue mini-series)
When trouble strikes and the big-name heroes are tied up with saving the universe, who you gonna call? Hero Hotline, of course. The newest super-team of the DC Universe takes on the Quakemaster in their debut adventure, written by Bob Rozakis, with art by Stephen DeStefano and Kurt Schaffenberger. Cover by DeStefano and Karl Kesel. *(New Format)* $1.75

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #59
It's a special story-within-a-story as the new Invisible Kid looks back into the Legion's history to explore the roots of his namesake Legionnaire. Written by Paul Levitz, with art by Keith Giffen, Mark Bright, and Al Gordon. Cover by Steve Lightle. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

MISTER MIRACLE #4
The Forever People drop in to visit Scott and Barda . . . except that Scott's missing and The Dark runs rampant through sedate suburbia. And Highfather's none too happy about any of it. Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art and cover by Ian Gibson. $1.00

SECRET ORIGINS #39
Is it or isn't it the secret origin of Animal Man? The truth, such as it is, comes out in the story written by Grant Morrison, with art by Tom Grummett and Doug Hazlewood. Also revealed are the secrets of The Batman's grotesque nemesis, the Man-Bat, as told by writer Jan Strnad and artist Kevin Nowlan. Continued in ANIMAL MAN #10. $1.50

SUPERMAN #30
It's two tales for the price of one as Superman finds himself alone on his trek across the universe; while on Earth, Matrix fails to find companionship amongst all of

humanity. Written by Roger Stern, with art by Kerry Gammill and Dennis Janke. Also, Lexcorp goes after S.T.A.R. Labs in a "Hostile Takeover" bid. Part 1 of 4, continuing in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #453. Written by Stern and Jerry Ordway, with art by Dan Jurgens and Janke. Cover by Gammill and Janke. $.75

BOOKS SHIPPING FEBRUARY 28*

THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #453
Lost in the void of space, Superman wrestles with his tormented conscience and hallucinations, with story and art by Jerry Ordway. Plus, Part 2 of the 4-part "Hostile Takeover" tale, continuing next month in SUPERMAN #31, by Ordway. Cover by Ordway. $.75

ANIMAL MAN #10
It's the wild kingdom like you've never seen it as Animal Man meets The Vixen and begins to uncover the true secrets behind his origin in this first part of a 3-part story. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Chas Truog and Doug Hazlewood. Cover by Brian Bolland. Continued from SECRET ORIGINS #39. *(New Format)* $1.25

BLACKHAWK #2
The Blackhawks learn that things are "Better Dead Than Read" as they try to help a reporter expose a corrupt Senator who's trying to shut down the comic book industry. Written by Martin Pasko, with art and cover by Rick Burchett. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

THE DOOM PATROL #21
The Scissormen come a-calling as the Patrol sets up shop in the old Justice League of America's former mountain headquarters. Written by Grant Morrison, with art and cover by Richard Case and Scott Hanna. *(New Format)* $1.50

GAMMARAUDERS™ #3
The Slugnoids attack, but things aren't as desperate as they seem, because there's always Squawwk the Penguinoid to come to the rescue. Written by Peter Gillis, with art and cover by Martin King and Dave Cooper. *(New Format)* $1.25

JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #1
Animal Man . . . Captain Atom . . . Elongated Man . . . Flash . . . Metamorpho . . . Power Girl . . . Rocket Red . . . Wonder Woman . . . they are the members of the Justice League Europe and their adventures begin here. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Bart Sears and Joe Rubinstein. Cover by Sears. $.75

L.E.G.I.O.N. '89 #3
The universe's protectors incur the wrath of the intergalactic bounty hunter Lobo, and Dox's motives for liberating his home planet come under question. Written by Keith Giffen and Alan Grant, with art by Barry Kitson and Mike DeCarlo. Cover by Kevin Maguire. *(New Format)* $1.50

THE NEW TITANS #55
The Titans resume their lives as Nightwing faces shocking news . . . and Wonder Girl debuts her new look *and* new name. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art by George Pérez and Bob McLeod. Cover by Pérez. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

THE POWER OF THE ATOM #11
This is one fight Ray Palmer hasn't been looking forward to as The Atom goes up against Paul Hoben, the man who stole his wife and his original size-changing belt. Written by Roger Stern, with art and cover by Graham Nolan. $1.00

SANDMAN #4
The Sandman journeys into the depths of hell to battle a demon for possession of his stolen mystical helmet. Written by Neil Gaiman, with art by Sam Kieth and Mike Dringenberg. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

THE SHADOW #22
A lot of things happen and they happen fast as the master plan of Shiwan Khan unfolds . . . The Shadow's death tank is debuted . . . oh, and The Shadow gets his *real* body back. Written by Andrew Helfer, with art and cover by Kyle Baker. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.)* $1.75

STARMAN #9
The Batman guest-stars as Starman goes after the mindless rampaging monster called Blockbuster, hoping to stop him before he kills again. Written by Roger Stern, with art by Tom Lyle and Bob Smith. Cover by Lyle. $1.00

STARMAN #9

SWAMP THING #85
Bet you thought you knew how the West was won, but the reality is something altogether different, as you'll discover when Swamp Thing meets up with some of the Western heroes from DC's past. Written by Rick Veitch, with art by Tom Mandrake and Alfredo Alcala. Cover by John Totleben. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.25

**Shipping dates, issue numbers, and issue descriptions are accurate reflections of DC Comics' schedule effective 12/28/88*

people at WORK

KURT SCHAFFENBERGER

Superman and Captain Marvel have a good many things in common, but one of the happiest that they share is the work of Kurt Schaffenberger, an artist who's contributed more than his fair share of pages to a host of other characters as well.

Kurt came to the comic book world via a small town in Germany called Zella-Mehlis, where he was born in 1920. "My parents were natives of the town and in 1927 my father came to the United States, established himself here, and my mother and I followed the following year. We settled initially in Hartford, Connecticut because my mother had relatives there.

"We eventually moved to West Hartford, which is just a stone's throw away, and that's where I grew up and went through grammar school and high school.

"I had always had an interest in art. From the time I was a little kid I was drawing whenever possible—cowboys, Indians, mostly that kind of stuff. A little later on, I would draw the things I saw in the newspaper comic strips, so after I was graduated from high school I went off to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York."

Kurt graduated from Pratt in 1941, and, with the help of the school's placement service, found himself headed out for a job interview in Englewood, New Jersey. "My first job was working in Jack Binder's studio," Kurt recalls. "Jack's studio was packaging the Fawcett line of comics, including Captain Marvel. I started out on backgrounds, and eventually worked on Captain Marvel, on Spy Smasher, Ibis, Bulletman and Bulletgirl. The whole schmear."

But World War II interrupted Kurt's new career. "I worked for Binder about a year before old Uncle Sam tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'I want you.' So I went into the service for three and a half years, three of which I spent in England, mostly doing artwork." Kurt laughs and explains, "You wouldn't believe how many Class A and Class B garbage cans I lettered. Of course, I also did a lot of other drawing, like poster work for the Adjutant General's office. This lasted until the breakthrough in the winter of 1944, after the Battle of the Bulge. That's when they dissolved our art branch . . . I was a master sergeant at the time, and they said 'You *will* find yourself another job.'"

When asked if combat was one of the other jobs under consideration, Kurt says, "Well, that was one of the things they offered me. The O.S.S. [the forerunner of the C.I.A.]. They needed German-speaking personnel and my German at that point was quite good. Unfortunately, the posting only offered master sergeant's pay, which I was already drawing, and I would have been dropped behind German lines in civilian clothes. I said, you ain't gonna get this uniform off me, no way. I did go into O.S.S., but I worked at headquarters in London. I was running spies over in Germany, just not myself.

"After the war, I got out and married the girl I had left behind and we've been married for over 42 years. We have two kids, who are both now grown and out of the house. The first one was Susan, who married a career Navy man and they have six kids. My son Carl is a forensic graphologist, which is a handwriting expert, and he deals mostly with court cases."

Kurt also picked up his career where it had left off before the war. "I went back to working primarily for Fawcett, on the Captain Marvel family of characters. The whole schmear again.

"In 1952, Fawcett folded its comics division and from there I went scrounging around wherever I could find work. I finally wound up working for the American Comics Group, with Fred Iger and Dick Hughes. I did any number of features for ACG and I developed some characters for them—Magic Man, Nemesis, and some others. But most of the time I did commercial comics for them. Custom comics, special advertising material.

"Then in 1957, while I was on vacation with my family in Maine, I received a phone call from Otto Binder (brother of Jack) at DC Comics, telling me they were looking for an artist for a new comic they were coming out with, LOIS LANE. So I applied to Mort Weisinger and got the assignment. I've been here at DC pretty much continuously since then."

And in the subsequent 32 years, Kurt has managed to apply pen and brush to a host of DC characters. "I've done Lois Lane, Jimmy Olsen, Superboy, Superman, the occasional Batman, Robin, Flash . . . you name it. I was also able to come back and do Captain Marvel again in the 1970's, when DC acquired the rights to the character. Just about the whole stable of DC characters at the time. Now there are so many new characters, it's hard to keep track of all of them sometimes."

And speaking of new characters, Kurt is himself partner in a new creation as inker over Stephen DeStefano's pencils on HERO HOTLINE. "HERO HOTLINE is a different sort of super-hero comic," Kurt says. "It's about a group of super-heroes who operate from an emergency hotline number. If you've got problems the regular super-heroes can't handle, you call the Hero Hotline. The art isn't in the super-hero style, either. It's more in the comic tradition."

But while he finds inking an enjoyable experience, Kurt admits that his first love is handling the entire job himself. "I prefer doing the whole thing, the pencilling and the inking, beginning to end," very much in the style as many of his early comic strip influences, such as Hal Foster, Alex Raymond, and Milton Caniff. Being able to craft a story from beginning to end may also be a reason for his particular fondness for his first DC assignment. "I would say Lois Lane was probably my favorite assignment because I was able to take what was a secondary character in the Superman stories and develop her as an individual, with a personality of her own."

Kurt is embarking on his 48th year in the comic book field, but he retains every bit of the enthusiasm that has shown in his artwork from the beginning. "I started getting recognition late in life, being invited to various and sundry conventions, being interviewed for DIRECT CURRENTS," Kurt says with a smile, sounding a little surprised by the acknowledgment of his contributions to the field. But then, he hadn't exactly planned on still being in this business, confessing, "Initially, when I went into comic books, I went in with the idea that it would be a great training ground to become a magazine illustrator. Saturday Evening Post, Colliers, Liberty . . . there were a bunch of them. But those magazines all folded and comic books and me are still here."

It goes without saying that the field of magazine illustration's loss was most definitely comic books' gain.

JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA

From the archives of the DC Comics Library, we bring you the cover of JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #1 (1960).

SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
10¢
JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NOV.
I'VE GOT THIS GAME RIGGED SO THAT EVERY-TIME FLASH MAKES A MOVE, A MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE DISAPPEARS FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
A STAR-STUDDED SPECTACULAR--
"WORLD OF NO RETURN!